

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1700 N. Congress Avenue

Austin, Texas



Charles E. Nemir
Executive Director

December 31, 1982

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Louis A. Beecherl, Jr., Chairman
George W. McCleskey, Vice Chairman
Glen E. Roney
W. O. Bankston
Lonnie A. "Bo" Pilgrim
Louie Welch

TEXAS WATER COMMISSION

Lee B. M. Biggart, Chairman
Felix McDonald
John D. Stover

Mr. J. B. Leverton
Health and Environmental Affairs
Union Carbide Corporation
P. O. Box 471
Texas City, TX 77590

Dear Mr. Leverton:

Re: Concentrated wastewater spill, Union Carbide Corporation--ISW Registration
No. 30689

On November 9, 1982, a leak apparently caused by a corroding wastewater line resulted in a spill of an unknown amount of concentrated wastewater into a flood canal adjacent to Loop 197 in Texas City. Union Carbide personnel discovered the leak at 7:30 a.m. on November 9, 1982 and soon thereafter the leak was patched with a clamp. On the same day at approximately 11:00 a.m., the spill was reported by Donna Waits of your staff to the Galveston County Health District and the U.S. Coast Guard. This District Office was notified at approximately 4:00 p.m. by Charles Dunn of GCHD.

Investigations of the spill were made on November 9, 1982, by Charles Dunn and on November 10, 1982, by Bob Berry, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Don Mitchell, Texas Department of Water Resources. Mr. Dunn's investigation report noted the following numbers of dead fishes: 500 mullet (4" - 6" long), 300 killifish, and 2,000 brown shrimp (less than or equal to 1 1/2" long). Results from water samples collected from the canal by Mr. Mitchell were as follows: DO - 0.8 mg/l, pH 9.1, TOC - 102 mg/l, COD - 800 mg/l (chlorides = 1768 mg/l).

Union Carbide's Part A Permit Application lists concentrated wastewater as a hazardous waste (HW No. D002). In the event of a spill of hazardous waste which could threaten State waters, Texas Administrative Code Section 335.117 requires (1) immediate notification of the Department according to procedures set out in Section .007 of the State of Texas Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan and (2) a written report within 15 days after the spill. Union Carbide apparently was negligent in both of the above requirements.

925771



REPLY TO: DISTRICT 7 / 4301 CENTER STREET / DEER PARK, TEXAS 77536 / AREA CODE 713/479-5981

P. O. Box 13087 Capitol Station • Austin, Texas 78711 • Area Code 512/475-3187

Mr. J. B. Leverton

Page 127

December 31, 1982

Please submit to this office by January 22, 1983, (1) a written spill report as required by TAC Section 335.117(j) and (2) your actions to insure proper notification in the future. In addition, since the spill discussed in this letter is the second such spill this year that resulted from a leak in your concentrated wastewater line, this office requests that corrective actions be taken by Union Carbide to prevent future leaks from this wastewater line. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Fred C. Dalbey at 713/479-5981.

Sincerely,

Merton J. Coloton

Merton J. Coloton
Supervisor, District 7

MJC/FCD/jea

cc: Dr. Ed Ibert, Director, Galveston County Health District

Mr. Bob Berry, Chemist, Region 4, TPWD

Mr. David Barker, Head, Spill Response Unit, TDWR